

United States Air Force **ONLINE** **news**

Vol. 2, No. 15

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

April 19, 2000

Inside

- Letters to the editor 2
- **In for 20?**
You bet! 2
- Guard, Reserve ease
pilot shortage 3

AEF schedule eases mission

■ Timeline brings predictability

By Staff Sgt. Jerome Baysmore
33rd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — For members of the 33d Fighter Wing “Nomads,” constant deployments have long been a way of life.

However, since the Air Force launched the Aerospace Expeditionary Force schedule in October 1999, many “Nomads” are reaping the benefits of fewer deployments, further intervals between contingencies, and supporting both on a more predictable basis.

The 33d Fighter Wing has two operational F-15 squadrons that are each assigned to separate AEFs. The 58th Fighter Squadron “Gorillas” support AEF 2 and the 60th Fighter Squadron “Fighting Crows” support AEF 4.



The Aerospace Expeditionary Force concept decreases the number of deployments and brings stability to Air Force family members.

“When your deployments are forecasted, you can plan for them and make arrangements before leaving,” said Staff Sgt. Ken Lloyd, 60th

continued on Page 3

One-plus-one equals privacy

■ '95 dormitory standard coming to fruition

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — Five years into the one-plus-one dormitory project, the Air Force is giving junior enlisted members something most active-duty family members living on base have had for a long time — privacy.

Privacy has been a top priority in military construction budgets since 1996 according to Air Force officials.

A 1995 quality of life survey revealed single airmen living in dormitories had a lower standard of living than the children of many active duty members living in base housing, so the Defense Department presented the case for privacy to Congress, said Kathryn Halvorson, an Air Force housing management specialist.

“We required our airmen, who are highly trained professionals, to share a room, while DOD policy gives family members privacy,” she said. Defense Department policy recommends private rooms for family members

continued on Page 4

NEWSBYTES

DOD celebrates Earth Day

WASHINGTON — Recycling events, awareness festivals, base clean-ups and other activities are slated throughout the military April 22 to commemorate Earth Day.

Honoring Earth Day’s 30th anniversary, the Pentagon will announce the Environmental Security Award winners April 26, and open the first federal fuel station to provide alternative fuels May 1.

The fuel station, located at a Navy exchange near the Pentagon, will offer compressed natural gas known as CNG, and E-85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The two alternative fuels significantly reduce air emissions and pollution when compared to gasoline.

Since 1993, DOD has reduced hazardous waste by 50 percent, toxic chemical releases by 65 percent and pesticide use by 32 percent. The department has completed cleanup at 60 percent of its active installations and formerly used defense sites. The department has also reduced new notices of violations by 77 percent and increased solid waste recycling by 50 percent.

Anthrax education

WASHINGTON — Defense Department anthrax experts are increasing efforts to provide service members and their families “good, credible information before they get disinformation” from other sources.

A 23-minute video which will be released to the field by early May, includes information on the anthrax threat, its lethality, and the vaccine’s safety. Additionally, a toll free information line, 1-877-GET-VACC, will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT, as well as an updated Internet site, www.anthrax.osd.mil

Finally, a public e-mail address allows service members to contact program officials with their questions and concerns at avip@otsd.amedd.army.mil.



Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week.

Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>. Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Be grateful for what you have!

I have heard a lot of complaining going on recently regarding quality of life; it seems these days that's the big ticket to retention and recruiting ... be grateful for what you have! As a prior service AF reservist, I have seen how good it was and still is ... The Air Force leads the way when it comes to quality of life; ask any soldier, sailor or Marine. Chances are they will be the first to tell you.

Mick Forand
Camp Stanley,
Republic of Korea

Going above and beyond

The Air Force way of life is not simply about doing your job and going home. Going above and beyond your call of duty is about helping to build a camaraderie that can only be shared while defending your country. This camaraderie is enhanced with community involvement! In time of war, you depend on your comrades and the relationships you took the time to foster during peacetime ...

Master Sgt. Juan M. Garza
DFAS-Limestone, Maine

In for 20? You bet!

By Senior Airman Michael B. Halbrook
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

I recently spoke at the Kelly AFB "Right Decision" seminar. This is a program that reminds first- and second-term airmen who are close to re-enlisting about the benefits they will lose if they decide to leave the service. It is also a forum for senior leaders to let these airmen know how important they are and that they care about their future.

As I watched people come through the door, I remembered the feelings I had when I first considered leaving the Air Force. Everyone asked "Are you sure this is what you want?" and "Think of your benefits." Like many of the airmen in this seminar, I didn't want to hear it — I was getting out. I separated from the Air Force in May 1999.

Many asked me why, but I really didn't have a definite answer. I guess I thought the grass was greener on the other side. I came up with a million excuses back then, but today I see that none of them were really valid. I learned some very hard and valuable lessons last summer. I also found out the job I had in the Air Force wasn't as bad as I thought.

I started looking for a civilian job eight months before my separation date, but nothing ever panned out. I used every possible means I had, including every online resume Web site on the Internet. So with no job, my wife Stacey and I moved back home to Florida and settled in with my parents. It wasn't a bad experience, but going back to live with your parents is something you really don't want to do.

My wife is a travel agent and found a job right away, but it paid only half of what she made during my last Air Force assignment in Colorado. Meanwhile, I continued hitting the pavement in search of the right job. I finally had to take what I could get, and accepted a sales position at a local radio station. Not a bad job, but if you don't sell, you don't get paid.

In July my uncle suggested I go to Georgia to look for a job, so Stacey and I loaded up our car again. Like before, Stacey found something right away that paid excellent money, so we were able to get an apartment. I on the other hand, just about lived at the local labor department — I think

they knew me by my first name. In desperation, I started dropping off resumes at local department stores along with any leads I got from the labor office.

When the phone finally rang, it was not the job I had hoped for, but we needed the money, so I went for an interview and was hired on the spot. And that's how, after four years in the Air Force installing high-tech, complex computer systems for the North American Aerospace Defense Command at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, I ended stocking shelves at Target. I'm not putting this job down, but I thought I could have found something better. I worked like a dog for four months unloading boxes, helping with inventory, and working late nights and extra hours just to make ends meet.

The real turning point came when Stacey and I had about \$34 left to last us two weeks. If not for our families, I don't know what we would have done. I knew then that getting out of the Air Force had been a terrible decision. I hadn't looked at the big picture or how this decision would affect my wife.

The next day I called my local recruiter, and that is why I'm telling my story today.

I have three points of advice for anyone thinking of getting out without having have a job lined up: One: Start saving now, just in case you end up like me with nothing to fall back on. Two: Think of your family. Right now they have insurance, and so do you. It gets real expensive on the outside and most of the time, it takes awhile before the benefits kick in. Three and most importantly: Get all the education you can and get that degree — it's the most valuable piece of paper you will ever receive.

I didn't come back into the Air Force just for the money, but having a job with security is an awesome feeling. I also missed wearing the Air Force uniform and all the perks that come with it.

This is not a feel sorry for me story. I just want to let others know things are a little different on the outside, and to keep what happened to me and my family from happening to them.

Many people have asked if I am in for good this time — I just smile back and say, "For the full twenty!" (Editor's note: Airman Halbrook is assigned to the Air Intelligence Agency's 690th Combat Support Squadron.)



TRANSITION TO EAF

Guard, Reserve ease pilot shortage

By Staff Sgt.
A.J. Bosker
Headquarters
United States
Air Force

WASHINGTON —

The shortage of trained active-duty aircrews and the current operations tempo have increased the Air Force's reliance on the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve to help accomplish the mission and make the transition to an expeditionary aerospace force, said Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters.

"We are an integrated Total Force and rely on the critical contributions of our Guardsmen and Reservists," Secretary Peters said. "We have been moving a lot of what had been active-duty requirements into the Guard and Reserve to free up resources for other tasks."

"The total number of the active-duty force will not vary much over the next few years so it is critical that the Air Force ef-



An Air National Guard instructor pilot and an active-duty student pilot complete a post-flight check of an F-15.

fectively allocate its manpower where needed most," he said.

According to the secretary, the Guard and Reserve have been moving into less traditional roles at home. The ANG is transitioning to F-16 training missions at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and Springfield ANG Base, Ohio, and to F-15 training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

The Reserve is also transitioning to the F-16 training mission at Luke AFB, Ariz., and is conduct-

ing test support at Edwards AFB, Calif.; flight check functions at Air Force depots at Hill AFB, Utah; Robins AFB, Ga.; and Tinker AFB, Okla.

Additionally, both Guard and Reserve instructor pilots are contributing to the primary pilot-training mission at specialized undergraduate pilot-training bases.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Tomorrow's Air Force faces many challenges

WASHINGTON — Tomorrow's aerospace force will deal with many operational complexities including those dictated by delicate political coalitions, said Gen. John Jumper, commander of Air Combat Command, during an April 13 Aerospace Power seminar held here.

"We may find ourselves again fighting as part of a coalition that looks at the same crisis in many different ways," he said. "Our willingness to engage (and successfully accomplish the mission) depends largely on our ability to adapt to these complexities."

With more than 70 media, congressional representatives and aerospace industry leaders in attendance, General Jumper outlined a few of the essentials needed for continued success in the future.

Both of the above articles are available in their entirety online.

Why are troops leaving?

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — An estimated 135,000 service members leaving active duty between now and Sept. 30 are being asked to fill out a 16-page survey designed to help the Department of Defense determine what motivates people to stay or leave.

The survey, which is voluntary, is broken into eight categories, ranging from basic demographic information to amount of time deployed.

Army Col. Jeff Perry, a personnel manager with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, said officials hope to compare answers from previous surveys to learn how people who decide to remain in military service and those who chose to leave view different motivators, particularly ops tempo. Congress mandated the survey in the fiscal 2000 budget.

AEF schedule eases mission, provides predictability

continued from Page 1

Fighter Squadron dedicated crew chief. "The AEF schedule helps me do that because I know ahead of time when I'm leaving."

In December 1999, Sergeant Lloyd was one of more than 550 maintenance troops, pilots and support people, who deployed along with F-15Cs from the 60th FS to Keflavik, Iceland, as part of AEF 4.

Sergeant Lloyd said he appreciates the advance notice of deploying with the AEF and is relieved he won't deploy again until March 2001.

"It seems to work a lot better than when I was deployed before, with only a few weeks notice," he said. "Now you know about deployments ahead of time and you can prepare yourself better for them."

The Air Force's evolution toward an expeditionary aerospace force is intended to bring stability to the operations tempo, to provide commanders with rapidly responsive forces, and forces tailored for specific needs during peacetime contingencies. By operating on a known AEF schedule, ongoing deployments become more predictable for Air Force people and their families.

Sergeant Lloyd noted the previous operations tempo of his job here, before AEF implementation, caused strains in his family life. During his first year with the "Nomads," he spent about nine months deployed.

"The first year I got here, in 1996, I only spent three months at home," he said. "I enjoy going TDY, but while I was away, my wife had to take care of the house, my son and she had her own full-time job."

Sergeant Lloyd said he and his wife filed for a divorce in December 1999. Although he doesn't blame the military for this he feels being away supporting contingencies had a lot to do with it.

The AEF schedule brings welcome predictability to family members in the home as well as to the work place.

Kat Scott, wife of Capt. Terry Scott, 58th FS "Gorillas" pilot, noted her husband once received an hour's notice on New Year's Eve to report to the squadron with his bags packed. She said she understands it's going to happen sometimes; "it's part of their job," she said.

"The AEF concept is a great thing," said Kat, "now the military lets us know ahead of time when our spouse will be deployed, which allows us to take care of family matters ahead of time. We can prepare mentally and physically ... it's a good improvement."

Technical Sgt. John Davis, 33rd Maintenance Squadron "Wizards" production superintendent, who recently returned from the AEF 4 deployment, also feels the AEF schedule helps make it easier to plan for family activities throughout the year.

This article is available in its entirety online.



AF commits \$1B for dorms

By Staff Sgt.
Cynthia Miller
Headquarters United
States Air Force

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has committed nearly \$1 billion to keep construction of permanent party one-plus-one dormitories on schedule for completion by 2009.

Since 1996, the Air Force has spent \$593 million for dormitory renovation and building projects, and has reached its goal of removing all permanent-party central latrine dorms.

Military construction of one-plus-one dormitories was sparked when a 1995 quality of life survey revealed privacy was the top concern of single enlisted members living in dormitories. In response, the Department of Defense enacted a one-plus-one standard giving dorm residents a private sleeping area with a shared kitchenette and bathroom.

The Air Force adopted a private assignment policy in 1996 guaranteeing all dormitory residents a private room by 2002. However, the policy has created a shortage of 13,600 rooms.

With the removal of the central latrine dorms, the Air Force has entered the second phase of its investment strategy, which is to eliminate the current shortage of rooms. The final phase will replace or convert two-plus-two dorms to the new standard as their condition warrants.

The Air Force has 55,400 permanent-party rooms, 4,000 of which are in substandard condition and must be replaced, said Maj. Ken Smith, Air Force chief of unaccompanied housing programs. A general summary of past and current dormitory construction and renovation projects is available online.



The one-plus-one standard was approved by Congress in 1995 when a quality of life survey revealed single airmen living in the dorm had less privacy than the children of many active-duty members living in base housing.

troops their much-deserved privacy," said Master Sgt. Timothy J. Cathers, a first sergeant at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. "The children of married airmen used to have better living arrangements than our young, single airmen. That did not seem fair to many troops."

In four years, the Air Force has built 9,600 new one-plus-one rooms. The service is committed to spending \$80 to \$90 million per year toward the construction and renovation of dormitories according to Maj. Ken Smith, Air Force chief of unaccompanied housing programs.

This amount will keep the Air Force on course for providing private permanent-party rooms to all unaccompanied E-1s through E-4s by 2009. The overall dormitory improvement program is expected to cost another \$1 billion through 2009.

"This is a high priority program and probably the largest single item in military construction spending (for fiscal 2000 and 2001)," said Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters.

With construction still ongoing, not all dorm residents currently live in one-plus-one rooms and the reaction from those who do varies.

This article is available in its entirety online.

■ One-plus-one equals privacy

continued
from Page 1

based on availability and sex.

To help alleviate the imbalance, Congress approved a one-plus-one dormitory standard in 1995 giving residents 118 square feet of private living area with a shared bathroom and kitchenette.

"The one-plus-one dormitory gives these better educated and better motivated young

AF offers additional \$5,000 enlistment bonus

WASHINGTON —The Air Force is offering an additional \$5,000 initial enlistment bonus to people entering certain career fields or aptitude areas in an attempt to bolster the number of recruits entering active duty now through May. This temporary \$5,000 bonus amount is in addition to pre-existing enlistment bonuses.

The additional bonus applies to eligible individuals falling into one of three categories:

- recruits who have shipped or are currently scheduled to ship to basic military training between April 17 and May 31;

- new applicants, who as of April 17, did not hold a reservation to enter the Air Force and will enter active duty now through May 31;

- individuals who have a reservation to enter the Air Force on or after June 1, but agree to move up their date and enter active duty before May 31.

This article is available in its entirety online.

DOD phases out smoking at recreation facilities

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—The Defense Department is expanding its smoking ban to include clubs, bowling centers and other morale, welfare and recreation facilities.

"We want to provide smoke-free facilities across the Department of Defense," said Sherri Goodman, deputy undersecretary of defense for environmental security. "We started with the workplace, and now we've expanded to cover our morale, welfare, and recreational facilities as well."

"We want to make sure that people who are using any DOD facilities have an opportunity to do so in a smoke-free environment," Ms. Goodman said. She added that smoking is already prohibited in DOD facilities for children.

This article is available in its entirety online.



U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

Publishers

Hon. F. Whitten Peters, Secretary of the Air Force

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Brig. Gen. Ronald T. Rand, Director of Public Affairs

Executive Editor

Col. Chuck Merlo, Chief, Air Force News and Information

Managing Editor

Senior Master Sgt. Linda Brandon

Staff Writers

Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy, Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller
and Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Technical Production

Capt. Laurel Scherer and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Toner